

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 02920 221233Z

41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00

AGR-10 OIC-02 COME-00 FEAЕ-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 /140 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4477

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

UNCLAS JIDDA 2920

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, SA

SUBJECT: CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

REF: STATE 088914

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY, ARAB NEWS, FOR APRIL 22 CARRIES
ITEM WITH ROME DATELINE ANNOUNCING SAUDI ARABIAN CONTRIBUTION
TO INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD).

ITEM BEGIN QUOTE:

SAUDI ARABIA ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY THAT IT
CONTRIBUTED SR 175 MILLION (\$50 MILLION) TO IFAD. THE
ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE BY SHEIKH ABDUL MOHSIN AL-SUDEIRI,
THE KINGDOM'S PERMANENT DELEGATE TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL
ORGANIZATION AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD HERE (ROME).

THE GRANT BRINGS THE FUND UP TO \$422 MILLION. IT
WAS THE FIRST CONTRIBUTION ANNOUNCED FROM A MEMBER OF
THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES
(OPEC).

PRIOR TO THE SAUDI ANNOUNCEMENT, EIGHT DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED GRANTS TO IFAD, THOUGH
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 02920 221233Z

SOME OF THEM ARE STILL SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY

APPROVAL IN THE DONOR COUNTRIES. THE LARGEST GRANTS ANNOUNCED SO FAR HAVE BEEN \$200 MILLION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND \$52 MILLION FROM WEST GERMANY.

IT WAS HOPED THAT OTHER OPEC COUNTRIES WOULD ALSO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH OPEC'S OWN "SPECIAL FUND" OF \$800 MILLION SET UP TO AID POOR COUNTRIES. SAUDI ARABIA HAS MADE A \$202 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPECIAL FUND. SAUDI SOURCES SAID IN ROME WEDNESDAY THAT THE GOVERNING COMMITTEE OF THE OPEC FUND WAS EXPECTED TO MEET BY THE END OF MAY IN ORDER TO MAKE A DETAILED PLEDGE TO THE TEXT IFAD PLENARY MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR MID-JUNE END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT:\$ MINFINANCE TOLD EMBASSY LIAISON OFFICER THAT SAG MADE SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$50 MILLIONQO IFAD IN ADDITION TO CONTRIBUTING ITS "FULL SHARE" OYARXEC CONTRIBUTION, WITHOUT SPECIFYING HOW OPEC MEMBERS HAVE PRORATED THEIR SHARES.

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